

## CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

30 WADSWORTH STREET  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02139

April 21, 1971

Mr. Richard M. Helms  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Helms:

It was with great pleasure that I read excerpts from your speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors in the New York Times. It was a pleasure for the fact that the event occurred, and for what you said, which was much in need of saying.

I noted with special parochial interest the remark "we welcome the opportunity to place research contracts with the universities, but again these are strictly voluntary." That was an encouraging statement of policy. However, it overlooks a critical problem; namely whether the CIA will allow the university to avow its source of funds.

As you know, some years ago our Center for International Studies cancelled contracts with the CIA on the grounds that it was improper for a university to conceal, not only what it was doing, but also who was paying the bill. M.I.T. adopted a policy that rejected the extremists demands to refuse contracts from intelligence agencies, but which did insist that any such contracts be overt and avowed. It was the CIA and not the university which declined to continue relations on such terms.

I hope that the statement in your speech suggests that the CIA is ready to change that policy. The ball is in CIA's court, not that of the universities.

I am writing you because I, for one, look forward to the day when we can put up a test case before a university, i.e. a case where the agency and some faculty members wish to sign a contract for legitimate, avowed, unclassified, scientific research of mutual interest. I wish I could be sure that my university, or any other, in 1971 or 1972 would act as M.I.T. properly acted four or five years ago when it adopted the present guidelines. I am not overly sanguine. I know that many of my colleagues would argue that we would make some students angry, and they argue soundly, but timorously, that by signing such a contract we would be inviting acts of terror. I do not know whether the university would, in fact, meet the test of sustaining academic freedom. But until such time as the CIA makes clear that it has changed its policies and is willing to

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negotiate attributed, unclassified contracts, there is no way for us in  
academia to undertake this defense of principle.

Sincerely yours,

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